Media Advisory
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April 2, 2024
Fort Drum Public Affairs

NASA to Fly Uncrewed Aircraft Systems from Fort Drum to Study Weather Patterns during Total Eclipse

FORT DRUM, N.Y. – NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, will use Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UASs) to gather atmospheric data during the upcoming eclipse to advance understanding of the Earth’s atmosphere during sudden changes in weather.

During the total solar eclipse on April 8, researchers from Langley will fly UASs specifically modified to collect atmospheric measurements before, during, and after the eclipse measuring meteorological differences. The team will work closely with collaborators from the World Meteorological Organization, National Center for Atmospheric Research, and the University of Albany who will launch weather balloons to gather measurements during the same timeframe.

Flying to a maximum of nearly two miles in altitude, NASA’s UAS measurements will provide vertical modeling of temperature, relative humidity, pressure, and wind for testing an alternative data collection method to using traditional weather balloons.

Data from this project will contribute to our understanding of the Earth’s energy balance and has the potential to assist in more accurate forecasts of sudden weather influencing events such as volcanic eruptions and smoke from wildfires.

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The visiting NASA researchers will be available to speak with media at Fort Drum during their preparatory check flights on Sunday, April 7. Interested media should RSVP by noon Friday, April 5, to Charlie Hatfield, NASA Langley Research Center, Earth Science PAO, at 757-262-8289 or charles.g.hatfield@nasa.gov

Media pickup will take place in the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum parking lot at 2509 COL Reade Road no later than 12:30 p.m. April 7.

Editor’s Note:
This media engagement will take place within Fort Drum’s range complex. To meet safety requirements, those attending should wear clothing and footwear appropriate to outdoor and off-road conditions.

Additional NASA resources regarding the upcoming eclipse can be found at the links below.

Eclipse Media Resources:
[https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/media-resources/](https://usg01.safelinks.protection.office365.us/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fscience.nasa.gov%2Feclipses%2Fmedia-resources%2F&data=05%7C02%7Clisa.r.albrecht.civ%40army.mil%7Cf27a17fb27d14a19d43c08dc531d8040%7Cfae6d70f954b481192b60530d6f84c43%7C0%7C0%7C638476633365324448%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tLPs7Csv3H6X9N18R9jRkiVQBiDab6ez22NYDVsGsUo%3D&reserved=0)

NASA Invites Media, Public to Solar Eclipse Events in April:
[https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-invites-media-public-to-solar-eclipse-events-in-april/](https://usg01.safelinks.protection.office365.us/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nasa.gov%2Fnews-release%2Fnasa-invites-media-public-to-solar-eclipse-events-in-april%2F&data=05%7C02%7Clisa.r.albrecht.civ%40army.mil%7Cf27a17fb27d14a19d43c08dc531d8040%7Cfae6d70f954b481192b60530d6f84c43%7C0%7C0%7C638476633365329981%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=C7YtIBYm9KEkd5YE%2BGFj7fXTfF45d0pzAK%2FRY8CAUKc%3D&reserved=0)

Total Solar Eclipse Safety:
[https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/](https://usg01.safelinks.protection.office365.us/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fscience.nasa.gov%2Feclipses%2Ffuture-eclipses%2Feclipse-2024%2Fsafety%2F&data=05%7C02%7Clisa.r.albrecht.civ%40army.mil%7Cf27a17fb27d14a19d43c08dc531d8040%7Cfae6d70f954b481192b60530d6f84c43%7C0%7C0%7C638476633365333839%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FhS8htQ9HlgaobAxYcJ82u03V%2Fphcq0TvMQiBlSSDC8%3D&reserved=0)

NASA Langley Research Center:
[https://www.nasa.gov/langley/](https://usg01.safelinks.protection.office365.us/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nasa.gov%2Flangley%2F&data=05%7C02%7Clisa.r.albrecht.civ%40army.mil%7Cf27a17fb27d14a19d43c08dc531d8040%7Cfae6d70f954b481192b60530d6f84c43%7C0%7C0%7C638476633365337083%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=o5BNMyPi7U5AyP2%2Br2IooponpaupqPl4X3bYKoe%2FOI8%3D&reserved=0)